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REMARKS

Claims 1-18 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 4, 9 and 12 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. The Abstract had been amended. No new matter has been added. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable.

The Abstract stands objected to as including more than 150 words. In view of the above amendment it is respectfully submitted that this has been corrected and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 - 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Melsky (U.S. Pat. No. 5,147,483).

Claim 1 recites an access port comprising a septum mounted sealing a first opening of a housing, the septum including an attachment portion "including an annular surface extending radially beyond a periphery of the operative surface and separated from the operative surface in a direction substantially perpendicular to the annular surface, *the annular surface being coupled to the operative surface by a chamfer which, when the septum is mounted within the housing, is subject to a force oriented substantially perpendicularly with respect to the annular surface*, the chamfered portion redirecting a portion of the force to compress the operative surface in a direction substantially parallel to the annular surface."

Similarly, claim 12 recites a septum comprising "an attachment portion adapted to abut a septum seat of the access port, the attachment portion including an annular surface" and "an operative surface adapted to permit penetration by a needle and resealing itself after removal of the needle, *a periphery of the operative surface being radially within a periphery of the annular surface*" and "*a chamfered portion providing a transition between the attachment portion and the operative surface, the chamfered portion re-directing a component of a force applied to the chamfered portion to compress the operative surface.*"

In contrast, the septum of Melsky includes no attachment portion including an annular surface "extending radially beyond a periphery of the operative surface [of the septum] and separated from the operative surface in a direction substantially perpendicular to the annular

surface be "coupled to the operative surface by a chamfer which, when the septum is mounted within the housing, is subject to a force oriented substantially perpendicularly with respect to the annular surface," as recited in claim 1. Rather, Melsky simply shows a septum with an angled side surface (i.e., a substantially trapezoidal cross-section) that extends across the entire thickness of the septum and does not couple an operative surface to an annular attachment portion.

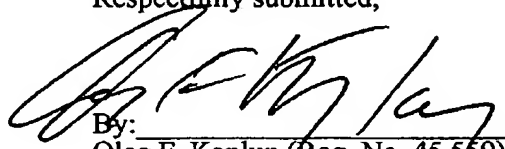
Similarly, it is submitted that Melsky neither illustrates nor describes a septum including an attachment portion "including an annular surface" and an operative surface having "*a periphery...radially within a periphery of the annular surface*" and "*a chamfered portion providing a transition between the attachment portion and the operative surface, the chamfered portion re-directing a component of a force applied to the chamfered portion to compress the operative surface.*"

It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 12 are not anticipated by Melsky and that this rejection should be withdrawn. Because claims 2 - 11 and 13 - 18 depend from and, therefore, include the limitations of one of claims 1 and 12, it is submitted that these claims are also allowable.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, and an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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